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on the DOT

PBBM OKS EASING OF STRINGENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Malacañang Palace, Manila — President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has approved the removal of the COVID-19 test requirements for incoming visitors and the lifting of the mask-wearing mandate for indoor settings.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco made the announcement in a press briefing at the Malacañang Palace earlier today (25 October), following the Cabinet Meeting with the President.

In line with the President's vision to facilitate ease of travel and tourist convenience, Secretary Frasco said the direction taken by National Government agencies is towards the liberalization of travel protocols in the country.

"*The direction of the Marcos Administration is to lift the remainder of travel restrictions into the Philippines, and that includes easing of our mask mandates to allow our country to be at par with our ASEAN neighbors who have long liberalized their mask mandates*," said Secretary Frasco.

"*In addition to this, it was also discussed that the remainder of stringent protocols, such as the requirement of pre-departure testing into the Philippines would also be removed*," added the DOT Chief.

Indoor mask-wearing, Secretary Frasco noted, will still be required in public transport, medical transport and in medical facilities, and will be "highly encouraged" for unvaccinated, individuals with comorbidities, and senior citizens.

The Tourism Secretary also announced that President Marcos Jr. will issue an Executive Order that ***(continue on page 2)***

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PBBM oks easing of stringent travel restrictions

Photo courtesy of Office of the Press Secretary

(continued from page 1)

will allow fully-vaccinated visitors coming to the Philippines to be allowed entry into the country without the COVID-19 test requirement. Meanwhile, unvaccinated guests, will be given the option to take an antigen test 24 hours before travel or upon arrival in the Philippines. This policy will supersede the stringent COVID-19 test and quarantine requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated visitors.

To recall, the National Government announced the removal of the One Health Pass (OHP) to make way for the more traveler-friendly eArrival cards, a joint undertaking of the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ), and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in coordination with the DOT and the Department of Information, Communication and Technology (DICT). The electronic arrival portal aims to simplify the entry procedures for travelers.

Secretary Frasco clarified that per the President's direction, registration through the eArrival cards shall not be made mandatory prior to boarding. Additionally, special lanes will be provided in the airport for those who are unable to complete the registration process.

"*Twenty questions that used to be in place have now been reduced to ten, specifically those that are tourism-related. And as agreed during the meeting, it was clarified that the filling out of the eArrival Card would not be made mandatory as a prerequisite to boarding. In other words, you will be able to fill out the eArrival card at your own convenience prior to departure or upon arrival,*" said Secretary Frasco.

Before being presented to the President, the proposals to lift the mask mandates for indoor settings with exceptions, entry of fully vaccinated travelers with no pre-departure testing requirement, and entry of unvaccinated travelers with pre-departure antigen testing or antigen testing upon arrival have been presented to and approved by the Inter-Agency task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

"*The overarching direction of the Marcos Administration is to allow our country to convey an openness and a readiness to the world to receive tourists and investments so that we would give our fellow Filipinos an opportunity to regain all the livelihood and losses that were incurred during the pandemic. We are optimistic that with all of these restrictions being lifted by the Marcos Administration, this can only redound to the benefit of the lives of millions of Filipinos as well as the reinvigoration of the tourism industry. In the end, we simply cannot go on in a pandemic perspective because we have to give our country an opportunity to thrive while maintaining basic health protocol on one hand, and safeguarding and protecting livelihood and the economy on the other,*" enthused the Tourism Chief.

As of October 24, 2022, the DOT has recorded 1,827,603 visitor arrivals exceeding the 1.7 million projection for the current year.

The biggest bulk of tourists came from the United States of America at 346,806 or 18.98 percent, followed by South Korea with 250,021 or 13.68 percent, and Australia with 85,986 or 4.70 percent.

Canada comes next with 78,366 or 4.29 percent, and the United Kingdom with 69,482 or 3.80 percent arrivals. ***DOT***

DOT exceeds 2022 target arrivals; PBBM rallies support for tourism as admin's priority sector

MANILA — Tourism players on Monday (October 17) gathered in a unified show of force to rally behind the Department of Tourism's (DOT) efforts to transform the Philippines into tourism powerhouse in Asia under the Marcos administration.

The first-ever Philippine Tourism Industry Reception organized by Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco brought together no less than President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., Vice President Inday Sara Duterte, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and key players and champions of the Philippine tourism industry, including the aviation, hotel and accommodation, transportation, food and beverage, and other allied services at the SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia (MOA) in Pasay City.

Tourism, a priority of the Marcos Administration

Delivering his speech as the reception's Guest of Honor, President Marcos Jr. expressed his bullishness on the prospect of tourism recovery, citing the industry's crucial role as a high potential driver for the transformation of the Philippine economy.

"*Very early on, even before I took office, in consultation with our economic managers, with private businessmen, it became very clear that as we transform our economy, one of the high potential drivers for the transformation of the economy is tourism. This is a driver of our economy. We must immediately do all that we can to make sure that this asset that the Philippines has, be used to bring good jobs to people and to once again re-introduce the Philippines to the world*," President Marcos Jr. said.

"*We fully understand how tourism can drive our social and economic recovery, especially in the countryside. Given the majestic natural wonders and exciting man-made sites that we have within the Philippines. Following the pandemic, we need fresh and new ideas to bring back the imagination and confidence of our people here and abroad so that they can be encouraged to explore the best destinations that the country can offer*," the President added.

Meanwhile, the President also lauded Secretary Frasco for what she has accomplished as tourism chief in less than four months and for "showing we have very much to look forward to when it comes to the area of tourism".

"*So I congratulate the Department of Tourism for all they have done. I would like to explain to you that you know when Secretary Christina first took on the Secretary of Department of Tourism, she moves so quickly that I had to talk to the others in the Cabinet and I said, You know she's making us look bad. We better quicken our game. So she keeps us on our toes and she has always kept a very, very clear idea in her mind of what we are trying to achieve. And she has brought a passion and an energy that certainly we are going to need. But it is a passion and an energy that gives us confidence that we will succeed*," enthused the President.

"*Allow me to repeat that this administration will remain committed to ensuring that the inputs you (Secretary Frasco) have acquired from your listening tours will be optimized for the benefit of the sector*," he added.

Breaching the 1.7 million mark

Meanwhile, in her remarks, Secretary Frasco announced that as of October 17, the DOT has breached its 2022 target foreign visitors arrivals.

"*As of today, we have received 1,767,791 foreign visitors arrivals, exceeding the 1.7 million visitors for 2022 projected by the DOT prior to June 30,*" Secretary Frasco noted.

"*Inspired by the leadership of President Marcos Jr., your Department of Tourism is committed to building on the industry's current gains, and vows to work relentlessly towards ushering the Philippines into a primary tourism position in the ASEAN and the world*," she assured.

"A New Era" of Tourism

Some of the notable highlights of the industry reception were the DOT's unveiling of its latest programs, and a unity toast of tourism players led by the President, the First Lady, the Vice President, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascua, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Congressman Vincent Franco "Duke" Frasco, Cebu City Mayor Mike L. Rama, Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) President Mr. Jose Clemente III, Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) President Ms. Michelle Taylan, Philippine Association of Convention Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers (PACEOS) President Mr. Joel Pascual, Philippine Hotel Owners ASSOCIATION (PHOA) Executive Director Benito Bengzon, Jr., SM Prime Holdings' Hans Sy and Captain Stanley Ng Of Philippine Airlines (PAL).

"*The Philippines ushers in a new era for tourism, built upon the strength of our cultural identity, our unity as a nation, and renewed global interest in our country's offerings. Our shared tourism governance will spell the success of our aspirations for a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism industry. Together we transform the Philippines into a tourism powerhouse in Asia*," said Secretary Frasco as she offered a toast to the industry players present.

"*As we move forward, we at the Department of Tourism remain steadfast in reaching our objectives to concretize the vision of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in making tourism a major pillar of economic recovery for the Philippines. We are just at the beginning of our journey, and I assure all of you that the best days of the tourism industry are yet to come*," Secretary Frasco concluded. DOT

Tourist Rest Areas launched in Mindanao

Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco led the groundbreaking ceremony and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing of the first of a series of Tourist Rest Areas (TRA) nationwide in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon and Samal Island in Davao del Norte on October 7.

"*The tourist rest area was conceptualized in fulfillment of one of our objectives in the Department of Tourism to ensure that we equalize tourism promotion and development not only in the key destinations within the country but also to lesser known areas that have great potential for tourism development. It is our President's desire to spread economic opportunity and livelihood all over the Philippines especially and including Mindanao*," said Tourism Secretary Frasco at the groundbreaking ceremony in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

DOT Tourist Rest Areas

The Tourist Rest Area is one of the flagship programs of Secretary Frasco and is grounded on the Department's vision to provide convenience and comfort to tourists. The TRA will highlight the provision of clean restrooms for tourists in transit to different tourist destinations.

Reflecting the President's pronouncements during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the need to promote an enhanced Filipino brand, the Tourist Rest Areas will adopt the use of local materials and design elements. The facilities will also have a Coffee Shop, Pasalubong and Souvenir Store, Tourist Information Area, and a Charging Station and pasalubong centers that will showcase a variety of products that are proudly made in the Philippines.

MOA with the LGU

The MOA pertinent to the TRA involves the tripartite arrangement in the establishment and maintenance of the place. Stipulated in the agreement is the joint undertaking between the DOT, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Local Government Unit (LGU) where the establishment is located.

As the tourism infrastructure arm of the government, TIEZA is in charge of the funding and construction of the TRAs. While the DOT serves as the overall monitor and evaluator of the project as its primary concept originator, while the LGUs are tasked with the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the area. Upon turnover, the LGUs are permitted to lease part of the facilities to the private sector to recover the cost of its upkeep.

"*We will have a criteria for the maintenance of the tourist rest area to be monitored by our regional office. If the LGU reaches 90% of this criteria, then we will give a prize to the LGU by way of project or financial incentive and that is how we will ensure that the tourism rest area will be properly maintained*," announced Secretary Frasco.

Tourist Rest Area in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon

The Tourist Rest Area in Manolo Fortich will cater to travelers particularly those on a road trip to tourist destinations around the municipalities of Manolo Fortich, Impasug-ong, Sumilao and Libona of Bukidnon and other areas in Mindanao.

"*When this place was identified as a venue for the tourist rest area, we were made aware by the DOT Region X that it is also a jump off point and a stopover point to our neighboring provinces and therefore this is a strategic place to put the tourist rest area here in Manolo Fortich,*" added the Tourism Secretary.

"*The Tourist Rest Area is not just about clean restrooms, the vision of our President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, as translated by our Tourism Secretary through her 7-point tourism agenda, more than many others, are grounded on seamless travel and convenience to tourists, job generation to those who will be servicing the rest areas and promotion of local products coming from surrounding localities*," said TIEZA COO Mark Lapid during his welcome remarks at the activity held in Manolo Fortich.

Manolo Fortich Mayor Rogelio Quino willingly accepted the challenge to operate and pursue upgraded services to transients and tourist that will eventually use the TRA.

"*This is a happy and historic day for all of us because the very first tourist rest area that we have broken ground on here in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. I hope that this conveys to the Philippines and to the rest of the world the seriousness with which we intend to fully open Mindanao to tourism*," said Secretary Frasco in her closing statement.

TRA in Samal Island, Davao del Norte

Meanwhile, the second Tourist Rest Area will be situated at the City Hall complex in Penaplata, Island Garden City of Samal (IGaCOS) where Secretary Frasco also led the groundbreaking and MOA signing of the Tourist Rest Area in Davao del Norte in the afternoon of October 7.

"*We are constructing this tourist rest area here in Samal in order to provide visitors with a relaxing and comfortable travel as they visit your island. We believe in the potential of Samal to become a key tourist destination in the country*," the Secretary said in the vernacular during the ceremony in IGaCOS.

"*To reciprocate the generosity of the DOT for providing Samal with a Tourist Rest Area, we made sure to build it on a very strategic location - adjacent to the City Hall, police station, and future sites of our integrated bus terminal, public market and convention center. We have envisioned this complex to become a one stop shop for our tourists*," shared IGaCOS Mayor Al David Uy.

Other than TIEZA COO Lapid, those who formalized the launching ceremonies included Vice Governor De Carlo L. Uy, 2nd District Congressman Alan Dujali and IGaCOS Vice Mayor Lemuel T. Reyes. The city has long been known for its world-class resorts and water and sea tourism destinations.

More TRAs across the country

According to Secretary Frasco, the DOT targets to establish a Tourist Rest Area in every region in the country.

As a follow through, Groundbreaking and MOA signing for the TRAs in Carmen and Medellin, Cebu will successively follow on October 8 (Saturday). A total of 10 initial TRAs are scheduled for groundbreaking before end of the year. Several more TRAs are expected to be constructed all over the country with Baguio City, Bohol, and Ilocos being eyed as next sites of DOT's Tourist Rest Areas. ***DOT***

Tourist Rest Areas for PHL's top destination - Cebu

CEBU— The Groundbreaking and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing for the series of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority's (TIEZA) Tourist Rest Areas (TRA) continued October 8 in Cebu towns of Carmen and Medellin.

"*The establishment of the Tourist Rest Areas fulfills the objectives that we have set out in the Department of Tourism including improving the overall tourist experience. This is a very strategic place to put the TRA because it is right along the highway and Carmen, (Cebu) is the middle point to the rest of our destinations here in Cebu. Our goal is to ensure that our tourists feel comfortable in their journey as they travel across the country*," the Secretary added.

Secretary Frasco likewise underscored the necessity of putting in place a Tourist Rest Area for travelers in Cebu, a province that has consistently figured in the top three most frequented destinations in the past three years according to data submitted to the DOT by accommodation establishments across the country.

As had been noted during the earlier TRA launchings, the rest areas are meant to deliver comfort and ease of travel to tourists and transients traveling to different tourist destinations in the country. Other than the crucial restrooms that are a necessity to the traveling public, the TRAs will also include a coffee shop, pasalubong and souvenir store, information center and a charging station.

The program is a joint undertaking by the DOT, the TIEZA, and the Local Government Unit (LGU) where the establishment is located.

The TIEZA is tasked to fund and construct the infrastructure for the rest areas. While the DOT acts as the overall overseer of the program, the LGUs are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the place. Upon turnover, the LGUs are allowed to lease certain portions of the TRA to the private sector to possibly recoup the cost of its sustainability.

As announced by Secretary Frasco, the maintenance of the Tourist Rest Areas will be incentivized. A specific criteria is provided to the LGU to ascertain the proper maintenance of the area. LGUs that will be able to comply 90% of the criteria set as target by the DOT will be given financial incentive or a project for the LGU. Periodic assessment and monitoring of the rest areas will be done by the regional office of the DOT.

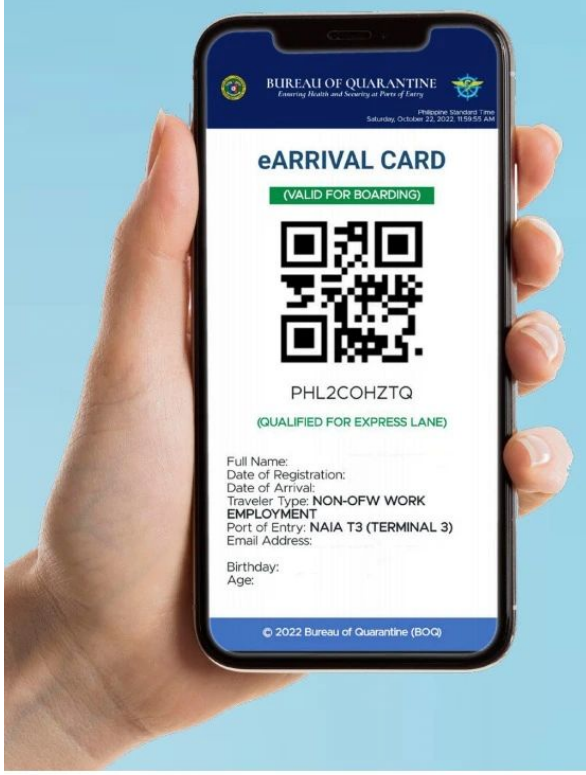
Both events were graced by Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia who remarked that, "*Today's event is truly groundbreaking literally and figuratively. A while ago we were across the street to break ground on a project that is truly most meaningful and useful. But also figuratively, this is a groundbreaking first for the Secretary of Tourism to break ground a project in Cebu with in her first 100 days.*"

"*(The Secretary's) listening tours in the past days were important to gather enough inputs (to her administration). There must always be coordination with national and local government units because we cannot believe that we have exclusivity of knowledge, but from these inputs we are able to craft good policies*," the Governor added.

Together with Secretary Frasco and Governor Garcia in the Carmen TRA groundbreaking and MOA signing were TIEZA COO Mark Lapid, Deputy Speaker and Cebu 5th District Representative Vincent "Duke" Frasco, and Carmen Mayor Carlo Villamor.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Secretary also led the groundbreaking and MOA signing of the TRA in Medellin, Cebu on the afternoon of October 8. Other than TIEZA COO Lapid, and Governor Garcia, those who formalized the launching ceremonies included 4th District Congresswoman Janice Salimbangon and Medellin Mayor Joven Mondigo, Jr.

DOT officials who joined the groundbreaking ceremony include Undersecretaries Mae Elaine T. Bathan, Shahlimar Hofer Tamano, Ferdinand Jumapao, and Assistant Secretary Kristine Chiong-Genegobis. **DOT**



One Health Pass replaced with PHL's 'simpler' eARRIVAL CARD system

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on October 21 welcomed the national government's introduction of the eARRIVAL CARD as a means to provide a more convenient and stress-free experience for Filipino and foreign travelers arriving in the Philippines.

According to Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, the inception of the eARRIVAL CARD as a replacement of the existing One Health Pass (OHP) entry requirement for travelers fulfills part of the Marcos administration's objective to ease the country's remaining stringent entry protocols in order to attract more travelers and boost the country's tourism recovery.

The eARRIVAL CARD stemmed from the DOT's proposal to remove the OHP especially amidst numerous complaints from inbound travelers to the Philippines and, to improve the same, benchmarking more convenient arrival protocols in the ASEAN such as Singapore. Following the DOT's coordination and discussions with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Quarantine (BoQ), and other member agencies of the IATF, the OHP requirement has now been lifted.

Prior to the adoption of the new eARRIVAL CARD, travelers were required to register for the OHP a few days before their travel, and accomplish the electronic Health Declaration Checklist (eHDC) on the day of departure.

Compared to the previous OHP system, the eARRIVAL CARD also removes unnecessary information fields, allowing the easier and faster completion of the traveler registration process. For instance, tourism-related fields were significantly cut by half, from 20 items under the OHP to now less than 10 items in the eARRIVAL CARD. Fields such as traveler occupation and educational attainment were also removed.

Upon providing their travel details, personal information, health declaration, and vaccination details on the eARRIVAL CARD website: www.onehealthpass.com.ph , travelers will be issued with a unique QR code.

Travelers must then capture a screenshot of the QR code on their mobile or computer device and present this to the Bureau of Quarantine (BoQ) officers at their destination airport in the Philippines.

Further, there is no need for travelers to download and install a mobile app to register, as the eARRIVAL CARD is a browser-based system.

In the event that a traveler is unable to complete their eARRIVAL CARD, the BoQ has staff stationed at the airport to assist in the travelers' registration. Serving as an important step in the national government's shift towards a paperless system, the eARRIVAL CARD will eventually remove the need for travelers to fill up the physical arrival cards done upon their arrival in the Philippines.

Aside from the shorter and easier registration process for inbound travelers, the DOT also lobbied to make the eARRIVAL CARD aesthetically appealing by incorporating Philippine sceneries and neutral colors in the design. To promote accessibility and ease of use among travelers, the eARRIVAL CARD registration page also utilizes sectioned fields instead of a single long web page.

According to Secretary Frasco, the eARRIVAL CARD will continuously be improved by the DOT and the DICT, as the agencies work towards making travel into the country more convenient by streamlining the information requirements of agencies including the DOH, BI, and the BoQ into one unified database.

"*We at the DOT look forward to continuing this synergistic approach to the improvement of the overall tourist experience through close collaboration with our partner national government agencies under the guidance of President Marcos. Our shared aspiration is to provide travelers with better and stress-free services through continuous improvement of tourism enabling mechanisms in the country, digitalization, and liberalized entry protocols that provide the least inconvenience to travelers and convey that the Philippines is open and ready to receive travelers*," Secretary Frasco said. **DOT**

Siargao, a priority for Tourism Development – Frasco

SIARGAO ISLAND — Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco formally lauded the beginnings of the tourism recovery of Siargao Island during the opening ceremony of the 26th Siargao International Surfing Cup last October 15.

"*The resumption of this International Surfing Cup is not only a celebration of the fact that you have been able to put this up for 26 years, but also because you have been able to stage this notwithstanding everything that has come to pass…Truly, this international surfing cup is a celebration of the strength of spirit of the people of Siargao*," Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco remarked during her keynote address.

"*The message of the Marcos Administration is that tourism is a priority. And with that, Siargao is a priority. In the next few years, your island will continue to flourish in partnership with the national government*," Secretary Frasco stressed.

The tourism chief also announced that the DOT identified infrastructure and gateway access as key solutions to key destinations such as Siargao, stating that "the national government is here to help Siargao recover, is here to help Siargao rise to the primary position that it deserves in the world".

A tourism-first island, Siargao welcomed 14,404 tourists, with the bulk coming from domestic tourists, at 12,870 and 1,534 foreign guests for the first semester of the year, according to the Provincial Tourism Office.

Among the line-up of side activities of the World Surf League (WSL)-sanctioned competition are surfing masterclasses, communal yoga, salsa, arts and cultural show, a bazaar, beachside bonfire, sound sessions, beach clean-up drive, and a free concert.

Also present during the opening ceremonies of the week-long festival are Representative Fransico Jose "Bingo" Matugas of the First District of Surigao del Norte, Deputy Speaker Duke Frasco, Cebu Fifth District Board Member Michael "Mike" Villamor, Mrs. Toni Grace "TG" Villamor, 19th Congress Majority Leader Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe, General Luna Mayor Sol Matugas, Vice Mayor Romina Sajulga, WSL Tournament Director Gerry Degan, William Vincent "Vinny" Marcos, Atty. Lalo Matugas, Former Mayor Cecilia "Yayang" Rusilion, DOT Undersecretary Shahlimar Hofer Tamano, and DOT XIII Regional Director Nelia Arina.

Secretary Frasco also presented a one-million peso check to the Municipality of General Luna as a manifestation of the support of the national government to the international surfing competition of Siargao. **DOT**

For non-surfers, the World Travel Award (WTA) 2022 World's Leading Island Destination nominee, recently, reoffered a wide array of nature-based and sun and beach tourism activities at the Magpupungko Tidal Wave Pool in Pilar; tri-island hopping of Daku, Guyam, and Naked Island in General Luna; Sugba Lagoon in Del Carmen; Sohoton Cove in Socorro; and Coconut Mountain View in Dapa.

Siargao was recently applauded as Condé Nast Traveler's Best Island in Asia in 2021 and was included among Time Magazine's list of "The World's 100 Greatest Places of 2021". **DOT**

First 100 Days of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Tourism: Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco

DOT bares tourism wins under PBBM's first 100 days

The groundbreaking of Tourist Rest Areas across the country, a collaborative and consultative tourism governance, opening up the Philippines to tourism confidence and investment, a diversified tourism portfolio, and the pronouncement of a clear course of action are among the notable milestones achieved by the Department of Tourism (DOT) as President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. marks his first 100 days in Office with Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco at the helm of the DOT.

Secretary Frasco described her first three months in the DOT as "positive and productive", as she underscored the Philippines' wins in the short period, including the objectives that have been identified to facilitate the faster recovery of the tourism industry.

Groundbreaking of Tourist Rest Areas

To carry out President Marcos Jr.'s directive to improve the overall tourist experience, the DOT in partnership with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and with the support of the local government units (LGUs) successfully led the groundbreaking of the first batch of Tourist Rest Areas (TRAs) in Manolo Fortich in Bukidnon, Samal Island in Davao del Norte, and in Carmen and Medellin towns in Cebu, from October 7-8, 2022.

According to Secretary Frasco, the TRAs will cater to travelers in need of clean restrooms and a place to rest in between their journeys. Reflecting the President's pronouncements during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the need to promote an enhanced Filipino brand, the TRAs will adopt the use of local materials and design elements. The facilities will also be equipped with information centers and pasalubong centers that will showcase a variety of products that are proudly made in the Philippines.

The Department is set to break ground on six (6) more TRAs across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in attainment of its target of breaking ground on ten of such facilities for 2022.

Listening tours with local and international stakeholders

Immediately upon her acceptance of President Marcos Jr.'s invitation to take the helm of the DOT, Secretary Frasco hit the ground running by going on listening tours with the DOT regional offices, attached agencies, and stakeholders from the tourism industry and related sectors across the country's three island groups in order to obtain firsthand information on the present needs and concerns of the industry.

In just over three months, Secretary Frasco was able to engage in numerous dialogues with stakeholders from the Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) and various associations and organizations from the accommodation, aviation, culinary, hospitality, and transport sectors, among others.

Furthermore, Secretary Frasco also maximized her recent official travels to Bangkok for the 11th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Tourism Ministerial Meeting (APEC-TMM), and to New York as a delegate of President Marcos Jr.'s Working Visit by meeting with international tourism stakeholders on the sidelines of the official events. ***(continue on page 9)***

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Bilateral Meeting for Asian Tourism Cooperation

In her first three months as tourism chief, Frasco had met with her counterparts from Thailand, South Korea, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia to discuss the continued partnerships between our countries in terms of tourism, and strengthen the country's bilateral relations with its ASEAN neighbors.

Establishment of a clear course of action for the DOT

Realizing the importance of identifying a clear course of action to attain the President's vision to transform tourism into a primary engine of socio-economic recovery for the Philippines, Secretary Frasco applied her extensive local government experience and the inputs derived from her listening tours with industry stakeholders in identifying the DOT's specific objectives and strategies in the next six years.

Under Secretary Frasco's leadership, the DOT shall focus on seven main objectives: 1) Improvement of the country's tourism infrastructure and accessibility; 2) Cohesive and comprehensive digitalization and connectivity; 3) Enhancement of the overall tourist experience; 4) Equalization of the DOT's tourism product development and promotion; 5) Diversification of portfolio through multidimensional tourism; 6) Maximization of domestic tourism; and 7) Strengthening of tourism governance through collaboration with LGUs and stakeholders.

In order to attain these, the Department's efforts will be anchored on three key strategies: Connectivity, Convenience, and (E)Quality.

Opening up to Tourism Confidence and Investments

Upon Secretary Frasco's comprehensive presentation of a comparative analysis of mask mandates in the ASEAN region and in other western countries, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging and Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) made a recommendation to President Marcos Jr. to liberalize the country's mask wearing mandate to keep pace with other nations. On September 12, the President signed Executive Order (EO) No. 3 which allowed the voluntary wearing of face masks in outdoor settings. Such move, according to Secretary Frasco, "will put the Philippines at par with its competitors in terms of health protocols".

The country's readiness to welcome foreign visitors and investors was reiterated by Tourism Secretary Frasco in the Philippine Economic Briefings (PEB) that were recently held in Singapore and New York with President Marcos Jr. as lead.

Provision of tourism employment

Through the initiative of Secretary Frasco to coordinate with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Trabaho, Turismo Asenso! Philippine Tourism Job Fair was launched simultaneously in NCR, Cebu, and Davao from September 22-24, 2022 with the objective of filling in gaps in the country's tourism workforce.

The three legs of the DOT-DOLE joint job fair program aggregated 157 tourism-related companies and offered a total of 8,310 jobs. Out of the over 9,000 cumulative registrants, 395 were hired-on-the-spot (HOTS) while 8,305 were considered near hires, or those who may be hired or placed depending on the interview outcome and pre-employment requirements compliance. ***(continue on page 10)***

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Prioritization of tourism workers

The DOT is continuous in its efforts to provide trainings for tourism stakeholders, focusing on the areas of Filipino Brand of Service Excellence Program; Barrier Free Tourism; Tourism Minds Women's Rights and Children's Safety (TourISM WoRCS); and Sustainable Tourism.

A total of 197 trainings were conducted from July 1 to September 15, 2022 with 6,784 trained industry stakeholders from tourism related establishments, Community-Based Tourism Organizations (CBTOs) and local tourism officers. Meanwhile, the DOT has also successfully conducted 10 Statistical Capacity Building/Tourism Statistics Planning for a total of 245 participants from LGUs and other tourism stakeholders between July 14 to September 16, 2022.

Underscoring LGU's crucial role in tourism growth

A multi-awarded local chief executive prior to her appointment as tourism secretary, having been a three-term Mayor of Liloan, Cebu, among Frasco's first directives as tourism chief is for all regional offices and attached agencies of the DOT to reach out to LGUs within their jurisdiction to establish a strong collaboration between national and local governments.

In her first 100 days as DOT chief, Secretary Frasco commenced listening tours on the regional and local level, meeting with regional directors and local officials to discuss how their respective tourism destinations can be further developed and promoted.

Whole-of-government approach to tourism

In working towards the actualization of the President's directive to introduce measures that will enhance of the overall tourist experience, the DOT reached out to various national government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in improving the connectivity of key tourism destinations; and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) in the enhancement of international airports and seaports, possible resumption of pre-pandemic routes and development of new routes to decongest the country's major gateways.

The DOT also engaged with the Department of Communications, Information and Technology (DICT) to discuss the strengthening of internet service availability in tourism destinations and building of tourism intelligence, and with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to continue the presence and training of tourist police in key destinations.

Routes resumption and development

In addition to the DOT's close alignment with the DOTr, Secretary Frasco also dialogued with AirAsia Philippines, Cebu Pacific, and Philippine Airlines (PAL) to enlist their support to the DOT's strategies, and to lobby for the airlines' reinstatement of flights that were halted by the pandemic as well as development of new ones that will increase the accessibility of Philippine tourism destinations to both local and international travelers. ***(continue on page 11)***

(continued from page 10)

Identification of Mindanao as a priority tourism destination

In keeping with its commitment to equalize tourism product development and promotion, the DOT also initiated coordination with the Department of National Defense (DND) to ensure the continued peace and security in tourism destinations in Mindanao and allow for the expansion of economic opportunities and tourism activities in the area. stakeholders between July 14 to September 16, 2022.

Diversification of tourism product portfolio

Secretary Frasco also signified the DOT's intention to diversify the country's tourism product portfolio to include Arts Tourism as a promising addition. Likewise, the Department is further developing the country's existing tourism products including dive and marine sports tourism, education, health and cruise tourism, food and gastronomy tourism, culture and heritage tourism, MICE tourism and halal tourism.

Working towards positioning the country as a premier diving destination in Asia, the DOT successfully lobbied for the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD) to have its own budget in FY 2023 as a full-fledged agency attached of the Department.

Ongoing initiatives and next steps

The DOT is undertaking the formulation of National Ecotourism Strategic Action Plan (NESAP) 2023 – 2028 to manage, protect and conserve the country's environment and natural resources as well as cultural heritage for the present and future generations, and the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) for 2023-2028 which shall serve as the blueprint of the Tourism Industry under President Marcos Jr.'s administration.

As earlier announced by Secretary Frasco, the DOT will also be launching the Bisita Be My Guest incentive program, Tourist Assistance Call Center, and a Tourist Lifecycle App, and most importantly, also in the pipeline are plans to incorporate the Filipino Brand in all Air and Seaports in the country to make it "distinctly Filipino", more importantly, to facilitate a seamless travel experience for visitors for a stress-free process with reduced waiting time for travelers.

Further, in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH), the DOT shall facilitate the improvement of health facilities in identified tourism destinations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DOT and the DILG for the training of Barangay Police Security Officers (BPSOs) as force multipliers in areas without Tourist Assistance Desks and Centers is also being developed.

Increased foreign visitors

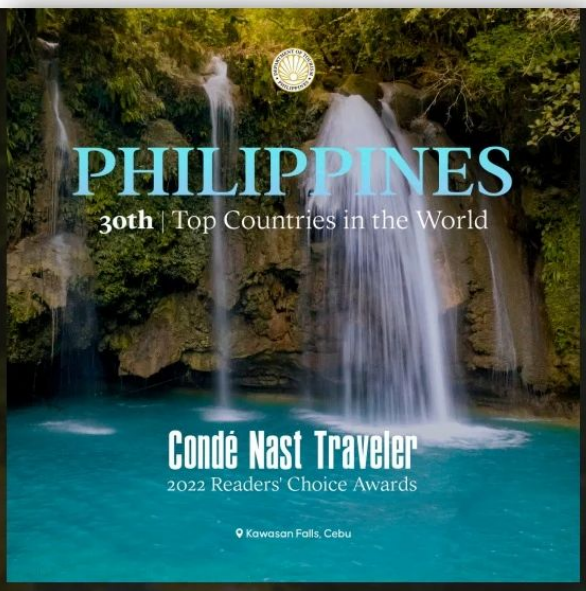
The DOT has sustained its positive trajectory of foreign visitor arrivals and receipts since its reopening of borders for visa-free countries last February 10, and to leisure travelers since April of this year.

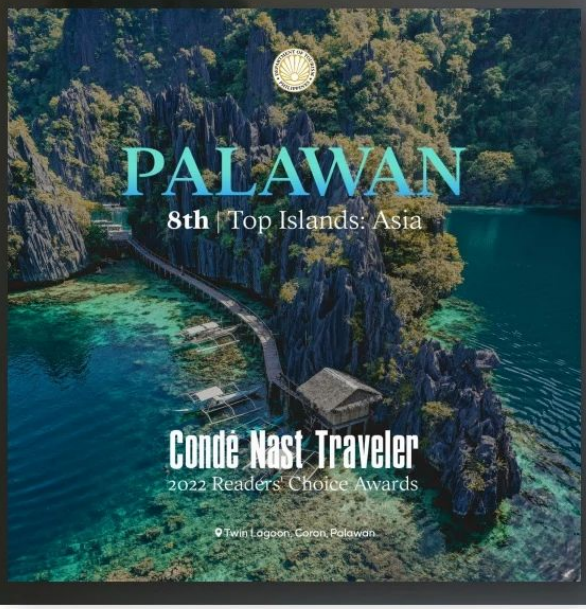
For the period February 15 to October 7, 2022, the DOT recorded a total of 1, 673, 888 air arrivals from all international airports. Out of this number, 1,192,779 are foreign nationals and 481,109 are Overseas Filipinos.

Inspired by the leadership of President Marcos Jr., Secretary Frasco expressed the DOT's commitment to build on the industry's current gains and relentlessly work towards putting the Philippines in a primary tourism position in the ASEAN and globally.

"*We are very optimistic that with the President himself identifying tourism as an important driver for economic development and source of quality employment for our fellow Filipinos, our gains in the roughly three months since we assumed office can be sustained, and the country's tourism industry can surpass its pre-pandemic levels. I thank the men and women of the DOT for your hard work, and I am counting on your commitment to continue serving with passion, and continue extending the Department's hand of collaboration to more of our stakeholders in the regions and LGUs in the next six years,*" Secretary Frasco said.

"*In the same manner, we thank our partners in the national government, the local government, and the private sector, whose invaluable support fortified our Department's initiatives and enabled the industry to achieve these milestones. We fully realize that the gargantuan task that lies ahead cannot be attained by the Department alone, which is why we intend to keep this participatory approach that we started,*" she added. **DOT**





DOT celebrates Philippines' back to back wins at Conde Naste Traveler Readers' Choice Awards; Boracay claims spot as top island in Asia anew

MANILA — The Department of Tourism (DOT) celebrates the Philippines' back-to-back wins in the Condé Nast Traveler (CNT) 2022 Readers' Choice Awards.

The world-renowned Island of Boracay was awarded the Top Island in Asia. Of the Top Ten Islands, Palawan ranked eighth. The Philippines was also awarded one of the Top Countries in the World ranking 30th.

"*We are extremely grateful for these international awards for the Philippines based on the opinion and experience of travelers from all over the world. As we usher in this new era of travel post-pandemic, our focus is to continue building confidence towards travel to the country by ensuring improvement in ease of access, prioritizing tourist safety and convenience, and encouraging sustainable tourism practices,*" Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco shared.

"*Recognitions such as these affirm our efforts to herald not only our country's natural wonders but also our readiness to become the premier tourist destination in Asia. The Department is one with all our tourism stakeholders, from the local government units, private sector partners, and our fellowmen in celebrating these victories for the Philippines from Condé Nast Traveler. We are confident that the acclaim for our flagship destinations will help garner more international interest for our country. With President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s thrust to expand and equalize tourism opportunities nationwide, the development and promotion of our other emerging destinations will follow suit soon,*" the tourism chief added.

Palawan, which garnered an 88.99 rating, is joined by equally heralded island destinations from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Japan in the CNT Asia list.

"*With the relaxation of the Philippines' mask mandate and our efforts towards the continuous review and recalibration of the country's existing health and safety protocols, taking into consideration the current health situation, and benchmarking on the best practices of ASEAN countries, our tourists can now all the more enjoy our nature-based tourism destinations like Boracay and Palawan all over the archipelago while still being assured that their health and well-being remain our priority,*" the tourism chief added.

Other citations of the country in the CNT Readers' Choice Awards, ranked by almost a quarter of a million voters, include Top Resort in Asia awards for Shangri-La's Boracay Resort (5th), El Nido Resort - Pangulasian Island (8th), and Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu (20th). ***DOT***

FY 2023 DOT budget submitted to plenary; Senators press for higher tourism budget

The Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittee "J" on Thursday (Oct. 6) has submitted for plenary debate the proposed Php 3.573B budget of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and its attached agencies for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco expressed her elation with the development and offered the DOT's sincerest appreciation to Senator Nancy Binay, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Senate Finance Subcommittee J, and to Senators Grace Poe, Joel Villanueva, JV Ejercito, Koko Pimentel, Loren Legarda, and Robinhood Padilla for their manifestation of support to the Department's plans and programs that are enclosed in its seven-point agenda and three key strategies to revitalize the Philippine tourism industry in the coming years.

"*I have high hopes that, with the support of the Senate, the Tourism Department will receive the budget that it needs to fulfill the vision of the President and the programs that we have prepared. The amount that you'll be granting to us will redound to benefit millions of Filipinos in terms of new employment, new businesses, a recovery of lost livelihood and lost economic opportunities*," said the Tourism Secretary.

Higher tourism budget

Secretary Frasco noted the impact of the Senate Subcommittee's favorable decision on the DOT's budget for FY 2023, with even some Senators strongly advocating for an increased budget for the Department in the coming years.

"*The tourism industry, supposedly, contributes about 2.48 billion pesos to our GDP. So, that is 12.8% of our total economy. That's quite a substantial number, and yet the budget that you're [asking] is quite minuscule. I think maybe not now but, moving forward, I think that you should get a bigger share of the budget*," remarked Senator Poe.

The Senator made a reference to Secretary Frasco's presentation of the tourism budget appropriations in the ASEAN region, which showed that the Philippines, with a $49 million tourism budget, is faring quite behind its neighbors, including Indonesia, with a tourism budget as high as $358 million.

Senator Ejercito shared a similar sentiment with Senator Poe, saying "*That probably explains the way they (ASEAN members) market their countries. It's really advertising all over the world, 'no. But given the meager budget that we have, we can still improve a lot*."

"*We have to equip you to do what you have to do to promote the Philippines diyan sa plano po ninyo*," added Senator Pimentel, who committed to study and explore how the DOT can fully maximize fund sources such as the Special Account in the General Fund (SAGF) of the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB), to support its plans and programs for the country's tourism industry recovery.

"Fun" tourism slogan to evolve

Addressing some Senators' queries on the DOT's new direction in terms of tourism branding and promotions, Secretary Frasco clarified that the existing "It's More Fun in the Philippines" will evolve while not changing the marketing of the country as far as being more fun but also incorporating a branding approach that highlights the best qualities of the country and the Filipino people.

The evolution of the country's existing tourism slogan, Secretary Frasco noted, is based on the DOT's consideration of studies and emerging travel trends.

"*The trends of the world market as far as travelers are concerned, are that post-pandemic, they now wish for more immersive, substantial, and experiential tours and travel experiences. The highlighting of one's strength of culture and identity as a nation has bode well for our neighbors as far as the ASEAN region is concerned. We fully intend that in this evolution, we will make sure that the Philippines will continue to be fun and at the same time also herald the best qualities of the Filipino brand*," noted Secretary Frasco.

Ongoing efforts and future plans

Among the DOT's upcoming initiatives, Secretary Frasco announced, include the launching of a heritage, arts, and culture caravan this month, and the groundbreaking of a total of 10 Tourist Rest Areas across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The Department is breaking ground on the first batch of Tourist Rest Areas on October 7-8, in the following locations: Manolo Fortich in Bukidnon, Samal Island in Davao, Carmen and Medellin towns in Cebu.

Banking on the continued support of the Senate, Secretary Frasco is optimistic on the attainment of the DOT's aspirations for the tourism industry.

"*I know that we can, and we will rebuild a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable tourism industry. After all, tourism is our shared responsibility*," she enthused.

The Tourism Secretary likewise assured the Senators of the DOT's appreciation and consideration of the valuable inputs that emanated from the meeting, which revolved around the lawmakers' manifestations and suggestions on the further promotion of existing tourism

products such as Film and Heritage and Culture, introduction of new tourism products, employment generation and upskilling of tourism workforce, improvement of tourism infrastructure, and ease of travel and requirements protocols, among others. ***DOT***

DOT relaunches Philippine Tourism Awards

The Department of Tourism (DOT) announced on October 17 the relaunching of the Philippine Tourism Awards (PTA) to incentivize tourism development in the country and encourage Local Government Units to adopt tourism as a means of economic development.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco made the announcement during the Philippine Tourism Convergence Reception at the SMX Convention Center attended by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and representatives from the tourism industry.

The PTA, according to Frasco, aims to develop tourism consciousness in the country by seeking to recognize local tourism enterprises, local government units and individuals in the industry who have excelled in management performance and tourism service. The Awards will be held in collaboration with the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB).

"*With all of you here tonight we wish to announce the relaunching of the Philippines Tourism Awards along with the Tourism Promotions Board. The PTA aims to recognize tourism related establishments and individuals whose seasoned expertise and commitment have innovatively and creatively projected the Filipino culture and the Filipino brand*," said Secretary Frasco.

The Philippine Tourism Awards will have 5 major categories: Institutional, Creative, Individual, Destination of the year and Special awards. Each will have a corresponding sub-categories.

The Institutional Awards will be given to those entities considered the best in their respective areas in terms of expertise, professionalism and quality of facilities and services. This will include Hotels, Resorts, Restaurants, Tour Operators, Events, Tourism Councils, Foreign Travel Agents and Foreign Airlines.

Creative Awards will be in recognition of the professional skills and insights of individuals and entities in their marketing, advertising and promotions efforts taking into account the creativity, imagination, ingenuity and factual presentation of information, organization and implementation and effectiveness of the program/project in terms of achieving client satisfaction.

Individual Awards are meant to those individuals directly or indirectly engaged in the industry who live up to the high standard of service and customer/client satisfaction expected from them.

The Destination of the Year Award will be in recognition of a particular tourism destinations' contribution to the development and promotion of the tourism industry through the cooperative efforts exhibited by both private and local government sectors.

The Special Awards, on the other hand, will be presented to an individual or a private organization who/that has promoted the interests of the tourism industry and whose contribution has had a significant positive impact on tourism in the Philippines. This would likewise include Lifetime Achievement Awards to honor individuals for his/her noteworthy career as a tourism practitioner either in the government or private sector and who has had an outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of the Philippine tourism industry.

"*Through the Philippine Tourism Awards we will also be identifying the best practices of local government units across the country including provinces, cities and municipalities to further encourage LGUs to adopt tourism as a means to stimulate the local economy and herald our distinct culture and heritage. We also hope to motivate our tourism stakeholders to elevate and maintain high standards of tourism services that we offer to our guests*," added Secretary Frasco.

The PTA ushers the revitalization of the tourism industry as the country looks forward to more relaxed travel and health restrictions in the near future. ***DOT***

Philippine Experience Caravans to roll out 2023 – Frasco

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on October 17 formally launched its new promotional project that would herald the country's rich heritage, arts, and culture through a series of caravans in the first quarter of 2023.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco launched the Philippine Experience: Culture Heritage, and Arts Caravans on Monday at the Philippine Tourism Industry Convergence Reception attended by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, and top officials and executives of the various tourism industries.

"*The Philippines ushers in a new era for tourism built upon the strength of our cultural identity, our unity as a nation and renewed global interest in our country's offerings. Our shared tourism governance will spell the success of our aspirations for a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism industry. Together, we will transform the Philippines into a tourism powerhouse in Asia,*" the tourism chief said, noting that the DOT is positive on the prospects of tourism recovery and economic resurgence as the Philippines has remained a top-of-mind destination among international travelers this year having earned numerous accolades from prestigious award-giving bodies and travel publications.

The launch of the caravans is part of the recalibration of tourism products centered around the country's "Filipino-ness" and its unique and defining cultural attributes as a nation.

The project will highlight the Filipino brand and identity in all aspects of the travel and tourism experience which will facilitate cultural tourism circuit development focused on heritage, culture, and arts to enhance current tour and domestic circuit offerings, which include thematic experiences on Food and Gastronomy, Pilgrimage and Wellness, Festivals, Living Cultures and Heritage, and Arts.

It also aims to link key destinations to lesser known destinations, as well as expand the country's tourism portfolio that includes sun and beach offerings, nature-based tourism, diving, food, education, health, MICE, and farm tourism.

Frasco, who is a native of Cebu and the former mayor of Liloan town, said the program drew inspiration from the province's Suroy Suroy Sugbo, a tourism promotion and marketing strategy initiated by her mother Gov. Gwendolyn F. Garcia in 2008 and continues until this day.

The tourism chief emphasized that the campaign has successfully repositioned the province as a prime destination not only for its white sand beaches and dive spots but as a tourist magnet for underrated tourism gems which was done through a massive community-based participatory cultural mapping program in all the towns and cities of the province to document their natural and cultural heritage assets.

According to Frasco, the Philippine Experience Program Culture, Heritage, and Arts Caravans is an expansion of the concept to cover all the regions of the country with the aim "*to diversify the cultural tourism product offerings of the country, equalize opportunities across the regions, support the preservation of the country's heritage, and artistic resources and assets, and instill a sense of pride and patriotism among the Filipino people through a greater appreciation of the country's inheritance and legacy*".

During the program, DOT Regional Directors gave a glimpse of the Philippine Experience caravans by donning their respective regional traditional attire while showcasing local symbols and icons of the Cordilleras, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog MIMAROPA, National Capital Region, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, o Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao region, SOCCSKSARGEN, and CARAGA. DOT

PHITEX 2022 yields record high 173M sales leads

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Travel Exchange (PHITEX) 2022 tallied a record-breaking PHP 172,602,851.00 business sales leads in just two days, according to data from the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Philippines, the marketing arm of the Department of Tourism.

The said amount is based on the initial submission of negotiated sales of Philippine sellers physically present at the event from October 19 to 20, 2022 surpassing sales reports of pre-pandemic editions when it lodged 94.8 million in 2018, and P46 million in 2019. In its hybrid format in 2020 and 2021, sales leads from the PHITEX aggregated to P43 Million and P69 million, respectively.

Now on its 21st year, the PHITEX is the biggest government-led travel trade event in the country organized by the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Philippines.

"*The impressive turnout of buyers and sellers, and the record-breaking numbers encapsulate the positive outlook for our country and growing interest in our destinations. As we embark in an aggressive campaign to revive our tourism industry and roll-out never seen before projects that will facilitate an enhanced connectivity into and around the Philippines, and provide a more convenient and seamless travel experience for guests, we anticipate more interest from local and international tourism stakeholders*," shared Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, who sits as the chairperson of the TPB.

"*President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has reiterated the tourism industry's crucial role as an important economic development tool and this initiative is an avenue which can facilitate the creation of more employment opportunities and livelihoods for our countrymen*," the tourism chief added.

This year's PHITEX was conducted in a hybrid format with international buyers and local sellers participating in on-site business-to-business meetings held at the Marriott Grand Ballroom and online via a virtual platform.

Out of the 116 total number of buyers representing 32 countries, 53 were physically present and 63 participated virtually. The negotiated sales were computed from the seller's sales leads reports for both confirmed and pencil-booked sales.

Meanwhile, 80% of the international buyers present will be traveling to six post-event tour circuits: Cebu-Bohol, Negros Oriental-Siquijor, Ilocos, CALABARZON, Davao, and Metro Manila. Aside from experiencing the newly developed circuits, the buyers will also be joined by Philippine tourism stakeholders in a series of networking nights to further expand the business opportunities offered by PHITEX. The virtual business meetings will continue on October 26-28 and more sales leads reports will be submitted after the completion of the event.

TPB Chief Operating Officer Margarita Nograles exclaimed, "We are so proud of the collective efforts of our TPB team, our partners and sponsors, our stakeholders and our suppliers who mounted this successful event. This is the biggest negotiated sales generated by PHITEX in all its years and we are seeing more leads coming in. Secretary Frasco has always emphasized the importance and opportunity in equitably promoting all our regions and not just our popular destinations. This strategy has been proven effective as we brought the Regional Directors to be part of the B2B process, incorporated an exhibit of all the regions, invited weavers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and made sure that in our cultural shows, we integrated all regions in the visuals and live performances."

PHITEX 2022 was organized in partnership with Philippine Airlines, and with the support of Globe Business, Primer Group of Companies, Destileria Limtuaco, Holiday Inn, Newport World Resorts, Hotel 101, Double Dragon, and San Miguel Brewery. **DOT**

DOT-OIMD launches first leg of industry trainings assessment in CAR

The Department of Tourism (DOT) through its Office of Industry Manpower Development (OIMD) successfully carried out the first leg of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact (MEI) Assessment of Industry Trainings in Baguio City.

Through the conduct of the MEI Assessment of Industry Trainings, the DOT-OIMD intends to capture the impact of the trainings conducted across the regions, and analyze the lessons learned, successes, and opportunities for improvement which serve as inputs in the enhancement of the Department's training programs.

"*With help from our DOT Regional Offices, we intend to use the findings of this impact assessment to strengthen and improve the Department's current training offerings, to make sure that these remain responsive and useful to our stakeholders. At the same time, it's heartening to see and capture how the DOT's past trainings have made an impact in the lives of the participants*," said DOT-OIMD OIC-Director Arlene Alipio.

In a span of three days, the DOT-OIMD's Manpower Planning Monitoring Division in coordination with the DOT Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Office interviewed 15 individuals based in Baguio City who received DOT trainings on topics such as Barrier-free Tourism, Basic Life Support, Community Tourguiding, Community-based Tourism Kulinarya, Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE), Homestay Training, among others.

Social adequacy

Among the prevailing findings elicited from the MEI assessment are the positive impact of trainings on the interviewees' social skills and confidence.

Mr. Noel Romero, DOT-accredited community tour guide in Baguio City, shared that he has been more confident in tour guiding since attending the trainings carried out by DOT-CAR.

"*Ako po ay natuto [makipagkausap] sa mga taong hindi ko kilala, nagkaroon ako ng self-esteem, nagkaroon ako ng tiwala sa aking sarili, at natutunan ko ang mga bagay na hindi ko pa dati alam katulad ng mga flora at fauna, gayundin ang mga background at history ng Baguio, at iba pang bagay na may koneksyon sa science*," said Romero, who prior to becoming a tour guide, served as a maintenance worker for an educational institution that ceased operations in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Romero had a chance to attend the Community Tourguiding training in 2021 after he successfully passed the screening process by DOT-CAR. Since then, he has been regularly participating in the DOT's trainings every chance he gets.

Mr. Cirilo Maynite, General Manager of Tita Aidz Inn & Kitchen, shared that the Community-based Tourism Kulinarya training added to his courage to create new food products and viands, and maximize social media to promote his offerings. These learnings, he noted, helped his restaurant survive during the pandemic.

In terms of operating his Inn which is classified as a Mabuhay Accommodation, Maynite said that the Homestay training also boosted his confidence in handling guests and conflicts.

Service standards raised

Interviewees also noted how the DOT trainings that they have attended taught them practical knowledge that helped improve their day-to-day duties.

"*Ang pinakaimportante na naituro sa amin noong training [ni] DOT, ishinare sa amin ang kahalagahan ng pag-attend ng trainings at seminars kasi bukod sa mga itinuro nilang mga ideas and knowledge, 'yung certificate na ibibigay sa iyo ay parang sinasabi niya na [legit] ka na homestay business owner or associate, para alam mong sumusunod ka ng policies ng gobyerno,*" remarked Mr. Dennis Pacis, an office staff of Oval Era Villa and recipient of the Homestay and FBSE trainings from DOT.

Mr. Sisirando Monderin and Ms. Maribel Payuyo, who are members of the Baguio Night Market Vendors Association and recipients of the same training, also noted that they were able to elevate the quality and presentation of the food and drinks that they serve to customers.

Meanwhile, Mr. Carl Mari Giankristo Ramirez, General Manager and Boatman of Aguilar Boat Rental/Sea Horse in Burnham Park, recalled how he was able to apply his learnings from the Basic Life Support training he received last August 2021, during an instance where he attended to an individual who had a panic attack while in the park.

Positive economic impact

Other training attendees happily shared how the DOT trainings have greatly helped in terms of increasing their income, growing their business, and working on their future plans.

"*Bukod sa kumpiyansa sa aking sarili, sumusunod na 'yun kung paano ako kumita ng pera. Dahil kung maganda at minamahal ko itong trabahong ito, dumadami rin ang aking kliyente dahil karamihan sa aking mga kliyente ay referral*," said Mr. Albert Hortaliza, a former Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who is now a DOT-accredited community tour guide.

"*Nabuo po 'yung confidence ko sa sarili ko lalo sa mga trainings ni DOT. Isa pa po sa epekto nun ay paglakawak pa ng network ko, at nadagdagan pa ang negosyo,*" said Ms. Maricel Marasigan, owner of Destiny's Homestay and Boarding House.

Marasigan shared that she was able to expand her business and open three more homestays since her business opened five years ago, and among her upcoming projects is to put up a coffee shop. In working towards this goal, she successfully earned her Barista NC II certification training being offered by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) with assistance from DOT-CAR.

After all interviews were concluded, the DOT-OIMD discussed the findings during an exit conference and meeting with DOT-CAR.

The DOT-OIMD is set to implement the next legs of the MEI Assessment of Industry Trainings in Tacloban City on November 16-18, 2022 and General Santos City on December 3-5, 2022, respectively.

DOT

ON THE GROUND NEWS

Regional News Updates

DOT conducts 1st National Surfing Summit

San Fernando, La Union— Local and international professional surfers and instructors on October 27 (Thursday) convened at the 1st National Surfing Summit (NSS) in La Union, otherwise known as the Philippines' Surfing Capital of the North.

With the theme "Surf's Up Philippines: Professionalising the Philippine Surfing Industry," the NSS served as a platform for a series of panel discussions in a bid to present the current trends and benefits of surfing as an economic activity and its impact to the environment and the society as a whole; to help improve service excellence by banking on the competency surfing services among surfing camp operators, surfing instructors, frontliners, lifeguards, Local Government Units (LGUs), host communities and other stakeholders in identified surfing destinations; and to provide venue for surfing stakeholders to meet and network.

"*On the whole, the Philippines has a huge potential to become one of the world's great adventure travel destinations. With our country's natural attractions and the Filipinos' love for sports, water activities, and adrenaline rush, we certainly have the competitive edge to make it big in this fast growing niche market of sports tourism*," expressed Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco in a message delivered by DOT-Ilocos Region Director Joseph Francisco "Jeff" Ortega.

During the two-day summit, representatives from the Department of Tourism (DOT) underscored the importance of upholding the Filipino Brand of Surfing through a series of trainings and the DOT accreditation for surfing camps and Filipino surfing instructors. This is to help ensure the safety of tourists engaged in surfing activities in the country and to establish the standard and quality of a well-capacitated surfing industry.

Meanwhile, surfing experts from the Philippines, Australia, and Indonesia presented the critical role of certification and regulation in marine sports operation, quality of surfing destinations, the global perspective of surfing, and its global trends and economic impact as an industry, among others.

One of the highlights of the NSS is the ceremonial turnover of 21 surf boards to the participating regional delegates of the summit.

Leading the ceremonial turnover are Tourism OIC-Undersecretary Verna Buensuceso, Assistant Secretary Rica Bueno, DOT-Ilocos Region Director Joseph Francisco "Jeff" Ortega, in partnership with San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Infrastructure through its Marketing Head Tony Reyes.

The NSS, which gatheredhered various surfing trainers, associations, communities, enthusiasts, and representatives from LGUs across the country and the globe, has given the Philippines an oportunity to showcase its potential as a world-class surfing haven.

Based on the DOT's data, entertainment and recreation services, where surfing falls under, logged a total of 73,235 inbound tourism expenditure in 2019; 14,505 in 2020; and 1,708 in 2021. ***DOT***

DOT Region 2 lauds winning LGUs in 17th ATOP Pearl Awards

Words and photos by DOT 2

TAGAYTAY CITY, CAVITE — The Department of Tourism (DOT) Cagayan Valley Region extends its warmest congratulations to the local government units (LGUs) who were recognized in various tourism events and accomplishments during the 17th Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP) Pearl Awards Ceremony on October 27, 2022.

DOT Region 2 Director Fanibeth Domingo said the LGUs of Ilagan City, Santiago City, Province of Isabela and the Province of Quirino are well-deserving of their respective accolades and recognitions.

During the awarding, the Province of Quirino was the Grand Winner for Best Tourism Oriented Local Government Unit (LGU) under Provincial Category. Quirino stages numerous tourism events annually such as Motorismo, Paskuhan and Panagdadapun Festival.

The Province of Isabela's Bambanti Festival was hailed as the Grand Winner for Best Tourism Event under the Festival Category. Held every January, Bambanti Festival is a thanksgiving celebration for the bountiful harvest marked by the use of larger-than-life-size scarecrows. It is the biggest and most attended festival in the region.

Ilagan City bagged the Grand Champion for Best Tourism Promotion Video award under the City Category, featuring its prominent tourism sites including Ilagan Sanctuary, Japanese Tunnel, DOT-accredited farm sites, and tourism and investment opportunities, among others.

Meanwhile, the independent component City of Santiago's Balamban Festival was the Grand Winner for Best Tourism Event under Nature Worship or Myths and Legends Category. The DOT featured the said festival at the recently concluded 33rd Philippine Travel Mart and Travel Tour Expo in Pasay City.

Finally, the City of Ilagan and Province of Isabela received the award for Best Event Hosting under the local/international category. The event hosted was for the Batang Pinoy 2019 event.

Domingo added that LGUs in Region 2 are all tourism oriented and are supportive of the initiatives of the DOT in ensuring that the strategic thrusts of enhancing the overall tourist experience are being carried out through tourism product development and promotion.

The Provinces of Isabela and Quirino are easily accessible through the Cauayan Domestic Airport with the daily flights by Cebu Pacific. The region is also accessible by overland buses from Manila and Clark through Victory Liner and Florida Bus Lines, while DOT-accredited tourism enterprises are also available. Tourists and visitors traveling to Region 2 may download the app funtourism2 for more information on the tourist attractions and services in the region. *DOT*

Laga Festival of Abra

Say-am Festival of Apayao

Panagbenga Festival' of Baguio City

Adivay Festival of Benguet

Gotad Ad of Ifugao

Bodong Festival of Kalinga

Lang-ay Festival of Mountain Province

Festival of Festivals heralds tourism resurgence in the Cordilleras- DOT Chief

The Department of Tourism (DOT) Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) highlights this year's celebration of the Indigenous People's Month with the hosting of the first Cordillera Festival of Festival Show at the Malcom Square, Baguio City on October 14.

The Cordillera Festival of Festival Show presented the different indigenous cultural festivals of CAR through a parade of costumes, dances and ethnic dramatization of each cultural heritage of the areas in the Region.

In her message, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco remarked "*It warms my heart to know that the Cordillera Region—the country's gateway to Northern Luzon's natural wonders, with a distinct culture and colorful traditions of the Cordillera's indigenous peoples—has banded together to promote culture and heritage through a showcase of the region's premier and iconic highlights of festivals and events.*"

"*As the country's new administration marked its 100th day in office, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is focusing on a whole-of-government approach to tourism in order to improve the overall tourist experience, diversify tourism products through multidimensional tourism, and maximize domestic tourism. Certainly, the Cordillera Festival of Festivals Show is an impactful and exciting event that is perfectly aligned with the DOT's goals of inclusive, participatory, and sustainable tourism*," Secretary Frasco added in her message delivered by DOT CAR Regional Director Jovita Ganongan.

CAR covers the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mt. Province and the City of Baguio.

The most popular among all the Festivals of the Cordilleras is the widely known 'Panagbenga Festival' of Baguio City. It comes from a Kankanaey term meaning "season of blooming", hence this event highlights the flower parade many people awaits yearly during the month of February.

Other festivals showcased during the event were the Laga Festival of Abra, Say-am Festival of Apayao, Adivay Festival of Benguet, Gotad Ad of Ifugao, Bodong Festival of Kalinga, and the Lang-ay Festival of Mountain Province.

Festivals in the Cordilleras, including the 'Panagbenga' has been in hiatus for three years now because of the prevailing Covid-pandemic restrictions. The introduction and launching of the Cordillera Festival of Festivals marks a new beginning of the festival celebrations in the northern region as everyone await for more vibrant festivities with the continued easing of pandemic protocols.

"*I know that most of us have waited for this opportune time when we can celebrate again our festivals minus the lockdowns and restrictions. Now we are all together in one of Baguio City's most iconic park, Malcom Square bringing the (Cordillera Region) festivals all together so the public could have a glance of exciting and spirited activities with great excitement*," Vice Mayor and Acting Baguio City Mayor Faustino Olowan said, representing Mayor Benjamin Magalong who is on official business.

Coinciding with the celebration of the Indigenous People's Month, the event hopes to build interest for cultural tourism as the nation gradually opens more warmly to visitors and tourists and as the country's pandemic restrictions becomes less restrictive. The Cordillera Festival of Festival Show will henceforth become an annual celebration in the Cordilleras for both tourists and culture enthusiasts to enjoy. ***DOT***

Zamboanga Sibugay learns from Cebu

Words and photos by DOT 9

The province of Zamboanga Sibugay headed by Gov. Dulce Ann K. Hofer partnered with the Department of Tourism Region 9 to conduct benchmarking and learning mission in Cebu last October 20-21, 2022. With her Local Chief Executives from the 16 municipalities were the Municipal Tourism Officers (TOs) and Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators (MPDCs) to learn the best practices in tourism development, management and governance; emergency preparedness and skills capacity development programs of Cebu Province and Lapu-Lapu City.

Gov. Hofer thanked Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco for the support and being true to her word in providing equal opportunities to lesser known destinations. She admits that "*Zamboanga Sibugay stands far behind in terms of progress and development, but there is much on the horizon that awaits us*". Having been created only in 2001 through Republic Act 8973, it is one of the youngest provinces in the country, and could gain knowledge from the more established ones. She is committed in making the tourism industry in Sibugay "from zero to wow".

Recognizing that Cebu is one of the most developed provinces in the Philippines and has an established and wide variety of tourism offerings, Gov. Hofer and Department of Tourism 9 Regional Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez came up with the project Benchmarking Activities and Learning Mission for the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay to Cebu to help the development of the province's and municipalities' tourism activities; benchmark best practices in tourism sites, tourism organization and tourism business enterprises; and apprise stakeholders' inputs on the success of tourism practices in Cebu. RD Rodriguez said that one of the roles of the national government is to provide enabling environment such as the establishment of supportive strategies for the LGUs' capacity to start up and grow, like this kind of learning mission.

Department of Tourism Central Visayas organized the delegation's meetings with Gov. Gwendolyn "Gwen" Garcia, Mayor Junard "Ahong" Chan and Congresswoman Ma. Cynthia K. Chan. In the meetings, the importance of the roles of the Mayors in the development of their respective tourism industry was emphasized. The different department heads of Cebu and Lapu-Lapu City gave presentations on how they supported and sustained their tourism activities amidst challenges (i.e. pandemic and typhoon), changing trends and demands.

Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Ahong Chan also showed their state-of-the-art Operations Center where they can centrally monitor activities in the City through CCTV cameras installed in strategic locations. This enables them to immediately respond to accidents and emergencies, and provides added security to visitors and tourists.

Cebu Gov. Garcia warmly welcomed the Sibugay delegation with colorful performances from the towns of Moalboal, Talisay, Minglanilla, Consolacion, and Liloan, showcasing their festivals and products. Apart from that, to be able to tap their fullest potential and help Zamboanga Sibugay navigate through the difficult task of governance – governance that uplifts the lives of people through impactful socio-economic activities, the good Governor also provided "big sister" advise to Gov. Hofer, as the latter is a rookie Governor.

To further their partnership, Gov. Hofer said she will be submitting a formal proposal for a sisterhood agreement "*so that the Provinces of Cebu and Zamboanga Sibugay can collaborate on various areas of governance*".

With the launching of the Philippine Experience: Culture, Heritage and Arts Caravan spearheaded by Sec. Frasco, last October 17, 2022, and with Cebu as its model, Sibugay's visit to the province was a perfect timing as they are also in the process of crafting their Provincial Tourism Development Plan, with the preservation of culture, arts and heritage as one of its priorities.

The participants, especially the mayors, were grateful for this exposure and vow to replicate the best practices in their respective towns. The TOs and the MPDCs were all in agreement that they shall make use of the experience and the learnings from the benchmarking trip in crafting their TDPs and strengthening their tourism industry to contribute to the economy of Zamboanga Peninsula. **DOT**

The Colorful Sails of Zamboanga is back!

Photos By DOT 9

After a 2-year hiatus, the colorful Regatta de Zamboanga is back with 231 participants from Zamboanga City, mostly Bajau fishermen who come from the coastal villages of Sinunuc, Maasin, Labuan, Mariki, and the island of Santa Cruz.

The fishermen gathered on October 09, 2022 (Sunday) to celebrate this year's most colorful Hermosa Festival with the theme "Celebracion de Colores".

EveryOctober, thousands of people gather along the kilometer-long stretch of R.T. Lim Boulevard to watch hundreds of colorful vinta sails race across the coastline. The event is the highlight of the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival honoring its patron saint, La Virgen Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza. Each boat carries two people paddling towards victory. The Vintas, also known as Lepa-lepa or Sakayan, are traditional outrigger boats with vibrant, rectangular sails. The intricate patterns on the canvas—designed by the racers themselves—symbolize the identities, customs, and aspirations of the city's diversity. **DOT**

DOT supports 1st Governor's Cup National Surfing Competition in Siargao

Photos by DOT 13

GENERAL LUNA, Siargao Island — Representing Department of Tourism (DOT) Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Undersecretary Shahlimar Hofer Tamano on October 2 served as guest speaker at the Welcome Dinner of the 1st Governor's Cup National Surfing Competition on October 2, 2022, ahead of the competition's official kick-off on October 5, 2022.

"*Sports tourism is very important in the industry*," said Undersecretary Tamano, noting that "*Siargao is not just for the region (Caraga) but a national tourism treasure that needs to be sustained and promoted.*"

Undersecretary Tamano shared on the DOT's ongoing initiatives under the leadership of Secretary Frasco, including the Department's provision of trainings for airport and seaport personnel and security to push forward the Filipino Brand of Service to tourists, as well as the collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to improve the country's airports, seaports, and roads.

Reiterating Secretary Frasco's promise of equalized tourism opportunities under her term, the DOT's initiatives, Undersecretary Tamano assured, stands to benefit not only the already established tourism destinations such as Siargao but also lesser-known destinations in CARAGA and around the country.

The 1st Governor's Cup National Surfing Competition, an initiative of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte's to revitalize tourism in the province after the onslaught of Typhoon Odette and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also present at the event were Surigao del Norte Governor Robert Lyndon Barbers and DOT-13 Regional Director Nelia R. Arina. ***DOT***

DOT BEYOND BORDERS

Foreign Offices Updates

TTG Incontri 2022

Words and photos by PDOT London

The Philippine Department of Tourism (PDOT) London banks on the steady rebound of the Italian travel market as it joins the annual TTG Incontri held in Rimini, Italy on October 12-14, 2022. The PDOT London participates with a 48-square meter booth, together with a lean delegation composed of Baron Travel Corporation, Travelite Travel & Tours, Intas Destinations, partner carrier-Cathay Pacific, and champion Filipino flair bartender Dennis Barela

The TTG Incontri is the largest leisure travel fair in Italy attracting more than 45,621 trade visitors and 2,179 exhibitors (pre pandemic figures).

The number of outbound travellers departing from Italy is set to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.6% from 32.6 million travellers in 2018 to 36.2 million in 2022 (according to GlobalData), although this will be driven mainly by travel within Italy and Continental Europe.

"*We expect the Italian and European outbound travel to the Philippines to increase further during the winter season where they travel to our country to enjoy our tropical islands for sun-sea holidays, and the warmth and hospitality of our Filipino people*," Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco enthuses as she remains confident in the strong market rebound of the European travellers.

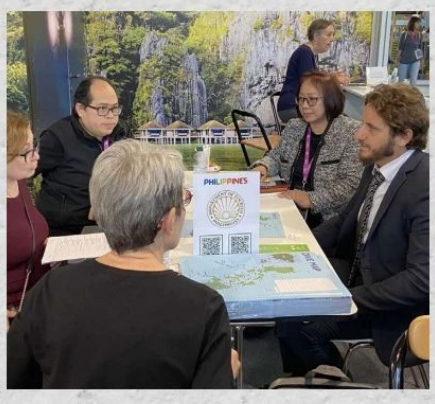
The PDOT London forecasts to receive 10,000 Italian visitors by the end of 2022, with projected tourism receipts in the amount of P828M (P 6,900 x 12 nights x 10,000 pax).

To maximise the business engagements of the private sector partners, the PDOT London, in collaboration with Turkish Airlines, organised a product presentation and business networking in Verona, Italy on October 10, 2022. Verona is an important source market being located in the middle of Lombordia and Veneto which are the wealthiest regions in Italy. Verona has also more than 210,000 residents (Top 12 in city population in Italy).

The Turkish Airlines reported big increase in passenger demand for travel to the Philippines during the winter holidays.

After business hiatus during the pandemic period and with current strong market rebound projection, the Cathay Pacific relaunched also its flight service from Milan to Hong Kong on October 11, 2022, while Eva Air is set to reopen its route from Milan to Taipei on October 25, 2022, both with convenient onward connections to Manila and Cebu.

The PDOT London Office, which has market jurisdiction over the United Kingdom (UK) and Northern and Southern Europe, is sending travel trade and media fam tour groups to the Philippines next month, coming from Italy, Spain, UK and Scandinavia to sustain the market growth momentum of European travel to the Philippines. **DOT**



HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

September 30-October 2, 2022 | Philippine Travel Mart

October 5, 2022 | SM Tourism Kiosks

October 10, 2022 | PeopleAsia's Women of Style and Substance 2022

October 13, 2022 | MAP membership meeting

October 19, 2022 | Spark Samar San Juanico Bridge

October 20, 2022 | 75th Anniv. of Ormoc City, Leyte

October 20, 2022 | 78th Leyte Gulf Landing Anniv.

October 23, 2022 | Bacolod Masskara Festival

October 25, 2022 | US-ASEAN Business Council

October 27, 2022 | 10th Regional Travel Fair

OATH TAKING OF HEADS OF DOT ATTACHED AGENCIES

Tourism Promotions Board
COO Maria Margarita Montemayor Nograles

Nayong Pilipino Foundation
Executive Director Gertie Duran-Batocabe

Philippine Retirement Authority
General Manager and CEO Atty. Bienvenido K. Chy

Philippine Commission on Sports SCUBA Diving
Executive Director Marco Ancheta

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN@DOT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO OUR NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

1 Michael Dionio,
1 Christelle Montemayor
3 Norberto Morales
3 Kharz Sofia
4 Arlene Alipio
4 Agnes Ocampo
5 Astrid Capellan
6 Rionel Abas
6 Jonathan Estera
6 Arlene Mercado
7 Erwin Balane
7 Kamille Araneta
7 Rosemarie Salvacion
8 Armando Labitad Jr.
9 Laarni Jaraplasan
9 Jenny Peta
10 Dexaivy Gillesania
11 Marissa Claustro
12 Edwin Martin
13 Rodel Almazan
13 Rowela Cerbas
13 Ernestinne Demaclid
13 Robert Traqueña
14 Grace Lansangan
14 Arianne Balbidades
14 Jay De Guzman
15 Louis Carla Ayao
15 Sherwin Manuel
15 Clarence Yog
15 Russel Fronda
15 Joseph Pastrana
16 Rufino Antipala
16 Niel Ballesteros
16 Cezar Sablad
17 Rommel Natanauan
17 James Braga
17 Mae Laia Montilla
18 Reynaldo Ching
18 Kristelle Tudtud
19 Christine Desolong
19 Pacifico Dolfo III
19 Angela Fagutao
19 Jennifer Tumlos
19 Marchieza Bicong
20 Felicisimo Maximo
21 Yolanda Cabigao
22 Andrew Bautista
22 Virgilio Tamayo
22 Maria Cecilia Santos
22 Joylyn Cauilan
23 Allen Marie Alejo
23 Richard Santiago
23 Sylvia Chinayog
25 Jeremiah Adao
25 Gilmore Apolinario
25 Ernest Sandoval
26 Ernie Ymbong
27 Elyses Sodusta
28 Lourence Beltran
28 Zosimo Fajardo
30 Andrea Morales